Effective design, delivery, evaluation, and interpretation are essential to CEP Extension educators. Outstanding educational programs include a strong foundation in program development, a comprehensive educational plan, appropriate teaching methods, and well-designed evaluation instruments. County agents develop programs through local planning groups, needs assessment data, leadership advisory boards, program area committees, youth boards, and task forces.

Addressing Mental Health and Obesity: More than 20% of children ages 9-17 have a diagnosable mental illness. CEP’s FCH agents conduct educational awareness programs such as “Mental Health First Aid” and “Healing Trauma” training to destigmatize mental health issues and encourage limited resource clientele to seek available resources if needed. Heroes 4Health implemented by County Extension Educators in 10 Texas counties reached 30,000 youth and trained over 700 teens as health ambassadors. The Cancer Cooking School motivated 232 rural and urban socially disadvantaged adults to get proper cancer screening. Eating Smart-Being Active is an evidence-based healthy eating and active living curriculum taught by EFNEP to limited resource adult learners. Through a series of lessons on nutrition, cooking skill development, and food safety, individuals, have significantly lowered A1C levels, blood pressure, and lost over 180 pounds.

Developing the Future AG Workforce: Cass County 4-H College & Career Readiness Club program helped 24 students better understand their strengths, learning styles, and personality types. This knowledge will help connect them to the range of post-secondary options, including certificate programs, specialized technical training, and two and four-year colleges. There were 108 participants in grades 6 through 12 from across Texas involved in residential college preparations programs exploring agricultural science through the AgDiscovery, Career Awareness & Youth Leadership Laboratory, Jr. Youth Leadership Lab and the Research Extension Apprenticeship Programs. Five scholarships ($75,000) to attend college were awarded to program participants.

Building Youth Assets: Special interest 4-H project clubs increased in gardening and robotics where youth learn teamwork problem-solving, critical thinking, engineering, and design. There was 4292 youth from Cameron, Cass, Tarrant, Travis, and Waller Counties who participated in robotics, National Youth Science Day, photography, and water education STEM programs aimed to improve their science skills.

We Promote Entrepreneurship: Business in Development (BID) – Individuals who completed the certification program submitted $425,320 in State contracts for approval. Additionally, $1,036,000 in loans have been approved in small businesses. The Rural Workforce Academy will allow hands-on skill training and job placement for rural participants at no cost. This program will support a rural workforce partnership to cultivate skilled workers, creating jobs, and strengthening the local economy in disaster-impacted areas.

Building Profitable Small Farms: 700 Feral hogs captured with the Boar Buster returned an economic savings of $140,000 to Fort Bend farmers, producers, and homeowners. Through the Rio Valley Grand Bull Gains Test & Heifer Development Program, educational workshops assisted small farm operators with 90 bulls, and 50 heifers to help improve their herd’s genetics. A model was developed for establishing a Next Gen STEAM garden education program in elementary schools. Also, over eight community gardens have been established throughout local communities.